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## THE STATE CONVENTION.

### THE OLD SUPREME COURT RE-NOMINATED.

Condensed Account of the Proceedings—The Speech of Mr. J. C. Buxton on Being Chosen Permanent Chairman.

The Democratic State convention met in Metropolitan Hall at Raleigh, Thursday 26th inst. at 12:15 o'clock. Richard H. Battle, Esq., called the convention to order, as chairman of the State Executive committee, and read the call for the convention, to nominate justices of the supreme court, endorse the nomination of superior court judges and choose a new executive committee. He said it was his duty to choose a temporary chairman of the convention and he called to that position Capt. Sydenham B. Alexander, of Mecklenburg county, whom he eulogized in very high terms as a sterling citizen and a thorough democrat.

Capt. Alexander returned thanks for the honor paid him. He congratulated the convention upon its assembling for the first time since the war under a democratic administration, both National and State. He spoke in the highest terms of the thorough fairness of President Cleveland's administration.

The following committees were chosen:

**Credentials**—1st district, John H. Small; 2d, R. B. Peebles; 3d, C. B. Aycock; 4th, J. J. Davis; 5th, A. M. Stack; 6th, John D. Shaw; 7th, T. J. Allison; 8th, G. F. Bason; 9th, J. M. Gudge.

**Permanent Organization**—1st district, Harry Skinner; 2d, F. W. Barnes; 3d, C. C. Lamb; 4th, E. S. Parker; 5th, W. N. Beman; 6th, Marsden Bellamy; 7th, A. A. Shuford; 8th, J. L. Webb; 9th, E. R. Memminger.

**Platform**—1st district, L. L. Smith; 2d, P. M. Pearsall; 3d, H. E. Faison; 4th, T. B. Womack; 5th, J. T. Morehead; 6th, A. F. Bizzel; 7th, Lee S. Overman; 8th, S. McD Tate; 9th, Richmond Pearson.

While these committees were absent Col. R. T. Bennett was called upon for a speech and responded briefly:

Hon. A. M. Waddell was the next speaker in response to calls. He spoke in terms of the personnel of the convention and spoke of its importance. He referred in most graceful language to the Old North State and invoked God's blessings upon her and her people.

Capt. Octavius Coke was called on and spoke of the high purposes for which the convention had been called saying he was sure it would do its work well. He said it was only necessary to choose a good ticket. There were no antagonists now. The republican party, the old foe, stands no longer in the way. He spoke of the republican as a contemptible party split into factions, indulging in a Kilkenny cat fight.

Col. Duncan K. McRea was called on and made some witty remarks. He said he had an unhappy lack of power to use good English, and was accused of saying harsh things when he intended to say pleasant ones. He said that though the convention was now very pacific yet he foresaw trouble ahead. There were three babies to be named and he rather anticipated a family row. He spoke of the days before prohibition and adulterated spirits, and narrated a christening incident wherein the baby was very difficult to be handled.

The chairman in the name of the convention invited Gov. Seales to a seat upon the stand. There were calls for a speech from him and in response he referred to the harmony which prevailed and interest manifested. He believed the convention equal to the emergency upon it and that it would do a work which would redound to the glory and best interests of the State. He eulogized North Carolina, her people, the personnel of her conventions. He spoke of what the State owed the democratic party and said if that party had done only two things it would win honor for all time, these things being the taking of the State out of reconstruction and the securing a system of county government which gave the white people the control of the State. This expression drew forth great applause.

Maj. C. W. McClammy, recently nominated for Congress in the third district, spoke in response to calls. He spoke of the democratic duty to labor for the democratic party, which was but another name for the best interests of the country. He pledged good work in the third district.

Congressman T. G. Skinner and Hon. W. H. Kitchen were both called upon and made brief response.

There was a delay of over half an hour, however, before the committee on credentials, which had retired, returned and reported through its chairman, Hon. J. J. Davis. He said that the counties are entitled to the votes as stated, 960, save that Robeson had 17 instead 16, making 861.

The following were represented by proxies: Alexander, Clay, Harrett, Haywood, Macon, Madison and Yancey. A majority of the committee recommended that they be ruled out. Alleghany, Brunswick, Caldwell, Davie, Davidson, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yadkin were stated to be unrepresented.

A lively debate ensued on the adoption of the report, which was effected after considerable delay.

The report of the Committee on Permanent Organization recommended:

For President—J. C. Buxton, of Forsyth.

For Vice-Presidents—J. J. Laughinghouse, of Pitt; F. A. Woodard, of Wilson; W. R. Allen, of Wayne; C. M. Cooke, of Franklin; A. H. A. Williams, of Granville; J. T. LeGrand, of Richmond; G. S. Bradshaw, of Randolph; T. F. Davidson, of Buncombe;—nearly all of them being young men.

For Secretary—Josephus Daniels, editor State Chronicle.

For Assistants—The Members of the Democratic Press.

On taking the chair Mr. Buxton spoke as follows:

*Fellow Democrats of N. C.*  
I thank you for the very high compliment which you have paid me in selecting me from so intelligent a body of representative men of North Carolina to preside over your deliberations here to-day. I take it as a compliment to the young democracy of North Carolina, and to the progressive, wide-awake county from which I hail.

I congratulate you on the favorable auspices under which we have assembled here to-day. For the first time in twenty-five years we meet to-day with the administration of the affairs of the government, both state and national, in the hand of the Democratic party. Year after year the Democratic party has been accustomed to meet in this city, place its ticket in the field, and carry it to victory, and every four years we have elected the Democratic Electoral ticket, but never before 1884 did we see the great result when we cast that vote for the present Executive of the United States.

I congratulate you on the present condition of our State Government with a wise and able chief Executive at the head of our State affairs. Never at any time, certainly since the war, has there been greater prosperity than at present.

Every pledge which was made by the Democratic party on which it came into power in North Carolina has been redeemed. The great mountains of the west have been penetrated and crossed by Rail Roads, and that beautiful

and fertile country to its extreme western boundary has been connected with the Eastern portion of our State, the State debt has been fairly and honestly adjusted to the satisfaction of our creditors and with honor to ourselves, and to-day the North Carolina 4 per cent bonds demand a premium in the markets of the world. We are troubled with no strikes, and the agitations of the labor question outside of our State have labored in vain to bring about any interruption between capital and labor. And now a word in reference to what we shall do here to-day. Let all of our actions be directed towards maintaining the high standard which our judiciary have made in the past, and whether it is to be the old court or a new one let its members be upright, honest, christian men. Let us nominate lawyers of whom it may well be said they are gentlemen who comprehend the law and the facts of a case with readiness, retain their facility, and weigh them in a balance so just that it will be difficult which most to admire, the clearness of their apprehension, the strength of their intellect or the soundness of their judgment. If we do this, my word for it, your action here to-day will be ratified by the people at the polls in November next.

A resolution ratifying the Superior Court nominations was adopted.

Col. T. C. Fuller, of Wake, placed in nomination for Chief Justice, Hon. W. N. H. Smith. Capt. C. M. McLeod, of Buncombe, nominated Judge Merrimon. Seconding speeches were made and the call for the counties began, resulting as follows:

For W. N. H. Smith.....	407 1-10
For A. S. Merrimon.....	387 9-10
For Thos. S. Ashe.....	7
For M. V. Lanier.....	3
Total.....	805
Necessary to a choice.....	403

Twenty-five counties were not represented in the vote taken.

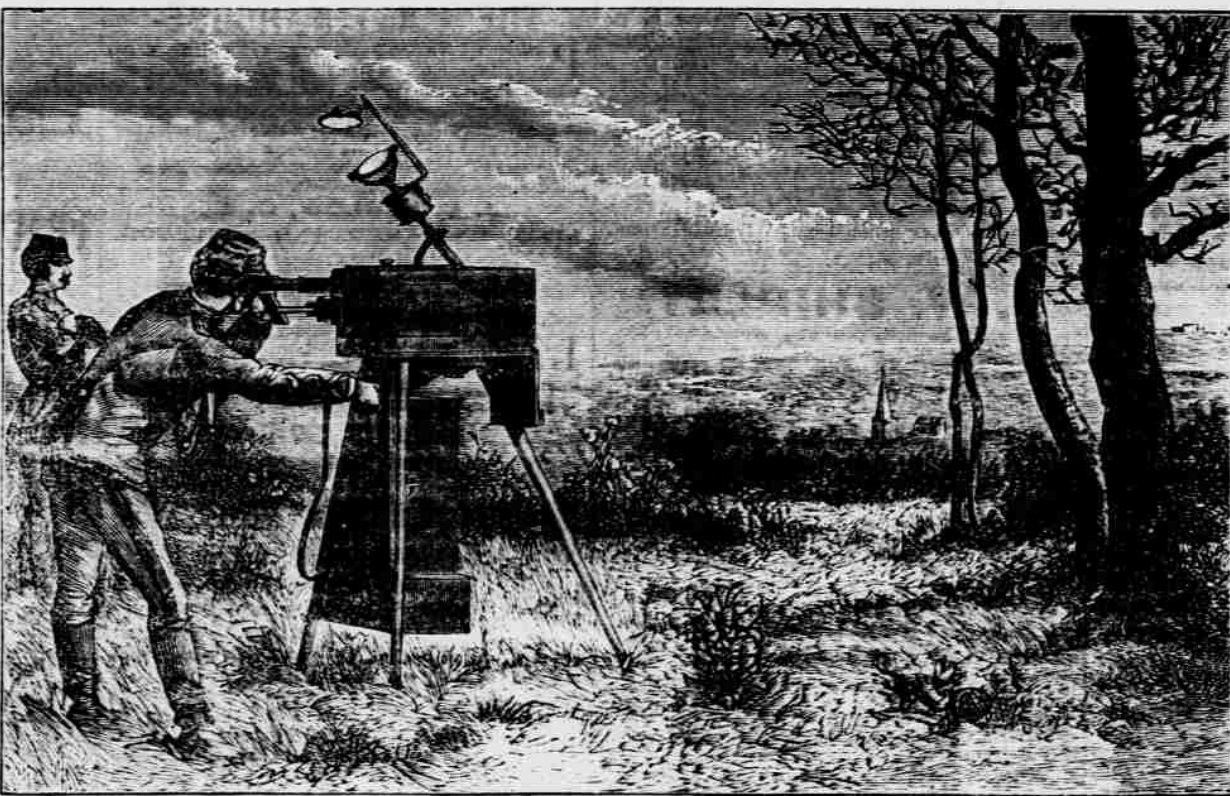
Associate Judges Merrimon and Ashe were nominated by acclamation.

The following is the Central Executive Committee which was re-elected: R. H. Battle, chairman; Oct. Coke, C. M. Busbee, Geo. H. Snow, R. G. Dunn, W. C. Stronach, P. C. Fleming, S. A. Ashe, W. J. Yates, R. B. Glenn, James S. Battle, John Hughes, T. W. Mason, James W. Wilson, Paul Faison, Paul B. Means, D. B. Nicholson, B. C. Beckwith, Secretary.

### Supreme Court History.

From Pittsboro Home.

The Supreme Court, as it now exists, was created in 1818. Previous to that time the Judges of the Supreme



MILITARY OPTICAL TELEGRAPH WITH HELIOSTAT.

Courts were required to meet twice a year to settle all appealed cases of law or equity. It was called a Court of conference. In 1818, the Superior Court Judges were excused from this duty, and three Judges were elected by the Legislature to constitute the Supreme Court. These are the honored men who have been our Supreme Court Judges: John Louis Taylor, Leonard Henderson, John Hall, John D. Toomer, Thomas Ruffin, Joseph J. Daniel, Wm Gaston, Frederick Nash, W. H. Battle, R. Pearson, M. E. Manly, W. B. Rodman, E. G. Reade, R. P. Dick, Thomas Settle, Nat. Boyden, W. P. Bynum, W. T. Faircloth, W. N. H. Smith, Thomas S. Ashe, John H. Dillard, Thomas Ruffin, Jr., and A. S. Merrimon.



MILITARY OPTICAL TELEGRAPH WITHOUT HELIOSTAT.

[Continued from 6th column, this page.]  
toric and poetical interest we tramped to Blowing Rock, carrying with us a pretty string of trout, caught on our way, and a bunch of canes and pipe stems from the top of Grandfather. Blowing Rock is a country post office, has two stores, a hotel and three or four boarding houses. It takes its name from a very high cliff about a mile distant, over which a strong wind is always blowing. We saw a hat thrown over and blown quickly back. Board at Blowing Rock ranges from \$15 to \$30 per month. The air is delightful and dry. It is said the place is over 600 feet higher than Asheville and I believe it will soon be one of the most popular resorts of the west. Here our tramp ended and, once more donning the garb of civilization, we bade adieu to mountain scenery and pleasures and began our homeward journey.

V. W. LONG.

## A MILITARY INVENTION.

### HELIOGRAPHY IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

A System of Signalling Which is Both Simple and Effective and Having an Ancient Origin.

It is surprising with what quickness the papers are filled with military articles when once there arises the possibility of a war between this country and a foreign power. Just now the appearance of war articles is remarkable frequent, and *Harper's Weekly*, always abreast with the times publishes an interesting paper on a system of signalling which is being introduced with marked success in the Army of the United States. It says:

For a slow vertical motion, permit the glass to follow the movement of the sun. The whole is mounted on a solidly planted post. A second mirror, upon another post, is placed two feet away. In front of the first instrument is a slender iron rod, having the end flattened, and a quarter of an inch wide. Thirty feet further to the front is another post carrying a similar slender sight.

A certain point in a distant mountain range has a station, and by repeated trials throws a flash on the new station. The operator sees it, and then, looking through his glass from the rear, brings the thirty-foot sight so that the flash seen seems to rest on the very top of the iron spindle. The glass is now moved so that the reflection of the sun's rays will, when the key is depressed, show the top of the spindle in the exact center of the flash. The other sighting iron is now moved into line, and shows a small black spot (caused by the silvering having been taken off to make the peep-hole). As long as that spot is kept exactly in that place, the rays will always be on the other station. Removing the finger from the key, a spring causes the mirror to tilt, upper part to the front, thus causing the ray to strike lower down on the rod, and out of sight of the other station. Thus, pressing the key and releasing it quickly gives a short flash, called a dot, while pressing the key and holding it down an appreciable time before releasing it gives a long flash, called a dash.

A series of dots and dashes constitutes a letter. The American Morse or telegraphic code is used. This is

the system used by General Nelson A. Miles in Arizona and New Mexico, who has caused two officers, Lieutenant A. M. Fuller, Second Cavalry, and Lieutenant E. E. Drovo, Sixth Cavalry, to complete systems, the former in Arizona and the latter in New Mexico. There are in the Arizona Division thirteen stations working, commencing at Stein's Pass to Bowie, 30 miles; thence to Bowie Peak, 2 miles; thence to White's Ranch, 20 miles; thence to Swisshelm's Mountains 9 miles; thence to Rucker Canon, 14 miles; thence to Dragoon Mountains, 23 miles; thence to Bissaba, 30 miles; thence to Fort Hurchuca, 32 miles; thence to north end Dragoons, 35 miles; thence to Santa Rita Mountains, 40 miles; thence to Tubac, 15 miles; thence to Patagonia Mountains, 25 miles—total, 275 miles.

The stations are equipped with glasses, guards, tents, and supplies for a month, and the operators are on duty as long as the sun shines. Messages are sent every hour during the day, and the line works as well as a telegraph wire.

In May, 560 messages were sent, comprising 25,000 words; in June, 1240 messages, of 40,000 words. Twenty-five words have been sent from one end of the line and answered by twenty-five different words from the other end in two hours, or fifty words 550 miles in two hours. Messages of two and three hundred words are taken at times without a break. Many stations have a corps of couriers ready to carry despatches to the troops in the mountain canons near by, as the troops are kept hidden by General Miles. At present, during Indian raids, troops, all over the country are warned by order orders sent by heliograph and couriers within one to two hours, where formerly it took hours and days to reach them by courier. The operators usually read with the naked eye up to thirty miles.

The system has been remarkably successful from the time Lieutenant Fuller commenced it in April last.

How Eoulden got Him.  
From the Danville Times.

Editor: "Do you take the Danville paper?" "No, I take the New York paper." A year afterwards, the same man comes: "I have a marriage notice I wish you to publish: you publish such things gratis, I believe." "Send it to your New York paper," responded the editor. "Oh, I remember I take the hint. Here is \$1.50, send me the Times." And it was done, and his marriage notice went in.

## A MOUNTAIN TRAMP.

### FROM BRIDGEWATER TO BLOWING ROCK.

Sketches of Grandfather Mountain—At Calaway's—Watauga Valley—Blowing Rock.

For The Sentinel.

—PART II—

The road from Linville Falls to Grandfather Mountain is one of picturesque beauty. It winds along the edge of high bluffs, passes beneath giant trees hundreds of years old and is ever crossing and recrossing the Linville river. We crossed (I had best said waded) Linville river fourteen times during our day's tramp. The stream was swollen, foot logs and bridges were gone and wading was necessary and unavoidable. We saw numerous trout darting to and fro in the limpid waters, but our limited time prevented our fishing. After we thought we had made fifteen or sixteen miles we asked of a countryman the distance to Calaway's—the boarding house at the foot of Grandfather. "It's about eight miles." This was discouraging and I think for the next two hours walk nearly every person we met estimated the distance at "about eight miles." Even one or two were so kind as to state that it was nine or ten—might be more.

Foot sore, weary, wet—yet in good spirits—we arrived at Calaway's just as supper was being served. Trout, fried meat, chicken, biscuits and coffee were on the bill of fare and received our most hearty attention. Supper over, we were introduced to the family. There was no doubt our being well introduced. Mr. Calaway presented us to Sally Maria, Temperance Savannah and all the rest, about eight or nine in all, and then said two or three were asleep and the balance gone to mill! Mrs. Calaway was one of those hearty, fat, laughing women, fond of a joke. Nearly everybody that has ever been there likes to laugh at her humorous ways and the names of her children. Next morning at breakfast she was going on in her usual strain when some one remarked on its being cloudy. "Yes," she said, Mr. Webster says clouds come from the serial elements, but Irving—my old man—has found out they come out of a crack, up on Grandfather mountain." Calaway is a long, low, double-story house of logs, placed at the foot of the mountain and within a few yards of the dashing Watauga river, in which the speckle trout are plentiful. The walls and ceiling serve as a register for visitors names and we found the names of many friends, who had visited the place.

The ascent of Grandfather is very steep. A path cut out of the bushes and vines led us up near the summit. There trickling from under a huge boulder, was a spring so cold that it fairly makes one shiver. It is only seven degrees above the freezing point and it is dangerous to drink much of it after the climb. After leaving the spring we climbed almost a rock ladder—so steep and rough was it—until we came out of the Grandfather's nose. Looking over a precipice six or seven hundred feet, almost perpendicular, we could see the scrubby balsams and hemlocks far below. To our left were the headwaters of the Linville and Watauga rivers. To our right lay the smiling valley of the Watauga, clothed in its peaceful summer garb of green. In front rose peak over peak and mountain top seemed trying to outvie each other in their sublime height. Every now and then the sheeted mist would come slowly drifting around the mountain like bands of silver and obscure our view. The effect of the sun light on these clouds of water smoke was beautiful. It gilded them with all the tints of the rainbow and one could almost imagine them phantom ships, peopled with beings of the air and sailing slowly and forever among the solemn heights of these grand old hills.

On our way down the guide pointed out the graves of hundreds of Indian warriors. Col. Howard was ordered by Washington to carry his troops from Tennessee to King's Mountain. On his way he met a band of Wataugas near the summit of Grandfather—then called Black Mountain—and several hundred Indians were slain and buried on its side. A party was sent out from Washington several years ago for the purpose of opening the mounds but the night they reached Calaway's, snow fell twenty-six inches, froze hard and they abandoned the idea, going away next day. The warrior braves rest there to-day—their sleep undisturbed. The same trees watch over their sepulchre that sheltered them from the sun and rain. The same stars shine overhead, and in the bosom of their grand old mountain home, they are still soothed by the lullaby of the Watauga river, as it sings its ceaseless monotone, on the way to the sea.

Leaving Grandfather with its hills— [Continued bottom third column, this page.]